

METHOD OF MODULATING CELL SURVIVAL AND REAGENTS USEFUL
FOR SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates generally to a method for modulating
5 cell survival. Modulation of cell survival includes inducing, enhancing or
otherwise promoting cell survival such as the survival of neural cells as well
as facilitating cell death such as the death of targeted cancer cells. The
modulation of cell survival is mediated by a region identified on the p75
neurotrophin receptor (p75^{NTR}) required for death signalling. The present
10 invention further provides genetic molecules which encode the death
signalling region of p75^{NTR} which are useful in antagonising death signal
function as well as promoting cell death when expressed in targeted cells.
The present invention also contemplates recombinant peptides,
polypeptides and proteins as well as chemical equivalents, derivatives and
15 homologues thereof which comprise the death signalling portion of p75^{NTR}.
Particularly useful molecules of the present invention comprise peptides
corresponding to soluble forms of the death signalling portion of p75^{NTR}.
These molecules antagonise p75^{NTR}-mediated cell death.